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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Comments

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The proposed Microsoft Settlement is a sham. We should expect this from them by now, but we shouldn't accept it. If Microsoft is allowed to choose the terms of their own punishment, they will choose to advance their own software. The current wording of the settlement is very different from the original ruling by Judge Michael Penfield, and lacks any true punishment for maintaining a monopoly.

There are plenty of arguments for breaking the company up. This is what was originally ordered by Judge Penfield, but was overturned in later rulings. This would be the best solution and punishment for Microsoft. As a Mac User, I avoid their operating system whenever I can. However, their Office software suite is excellent on the Macintosh platform, and only continues to get better. This software was created by a separate group, one that operates outside the realm of Microsoft and its operating systems. This shows that Microsoft doesn't require co-development of its software and operating system. However, by tying the two, they can successfully prevent the use of their software on other platforms.

The current settlement, as proposed by Microsoft, should be thrown away. I think a situation that truly punishes the corporation for violating anti-trust laws, which they have been convicted of, is needed. This could range from splitting the company into separate entities, or forcing Microsoft to share their source with developers, so other companies can have equal access to information that is pertinent to developing good software.

Microsoft has not been reprimanded for their monopolistic behavior, which they have not changed as of yet. They have also used their powers as a monopoly to extend other software, services, and protocols which will continue to advance their position as a monopoly. This case affects everyone who uses computers, in some way or another. The correct response to this case has nothing to do with the settlement that Microsoft has proposed. It should be thrown away, and a new settlement, something closer to Judge Penfield's ruling should be used.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.
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